



YUP, WE'LL ALL MISS KNOPE

AS PARKS AND RECREATION'S LAST SEASON BEGINS, METRO LOOKS BACK AT ALL THE THINGS WE LOVE ABOUT PAWNEE **PAGE 11**



Ottawa terror suspect's father speaks out

'My son is a good boy' says father of Suliman Mohamed **PAGE 2**

'All is forgiven': Charlie Hebdo

French magazine releases new issue with image of the Prophet Muhammad weeping **PAGE 6**



TRAGIC FIRE IN BARRHAVEN

An Ottawa firefighter scales a ladder at 5 Goodwood Dr. where a morning blaze killed a couple in their 70s. See story page 4. ALEX ROBINSON/METROLAND NEWS SERVICE

36 questions could land you your soulmate

Twenty years ago a psychologist used these questions in an experiment that resulted in two strangers falling in love. But could it work for anyone? **PAGE 8**



Buy a house with your phone

Scrambling to sign those papers at the realtor's office may soon be a thing of the past **PAGE 7**

Send your chili into the stratosphere

Steak makes this recipe out of this world **PAGE 15**



U of O hockey players suing school for \$6M

Class-action suit. Players who were not accused of wrongdoing allege school tarnished their reputations



LUCY SCHOLEY
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Former players of the University of Ottawa men's hockey team are launching a class-ac-

tion lawsuit against the school and seek a total of \$6 million in damages because the university suspended its men's hockey program after two players were accused of sexual assault.

Lawyer Lawrence Greenspon, who's representing former hockey players who were not accused of wrongdoing, said in a news conference on Tuesday that the university unfairly punished his clients and tarnished their reputations.

According to the statement of claim, which contains allegations that have not been prov-

en in court, the athletes have suffered anxiety, harassment and skipped classes since the allegations from Thunder Bay surfaced.

The players are now seeking \$4 million in general damages and \$2 million in punitive damages.

"Sexual assault is a serious crime, but since offenders carry a huge stigma, it is particularly important to make sure that innocent people aren't accused," said Greenspon.

Andrew Creppin, who played centre for the team last

year, said the allegations cast "a dark shadow" over the team. Creppin is the named plaintiff in the class action.

"It was hard for us to even wear our coats out in public without being ridiculed," the 24-year-old said. He later said that he worked his whole life to play hockey at such a highly competitive level, only for the university to take it away.

Creppin is in his fourth year of human kinetics at the university and hopes to become a chiropractor. The hockey team should be a positive addition to

his resume, he said, not something he feels he needs to hide.

Creppin said he was at a hospital in Thunder Bay — waiting with a friend who was sick — on the night of the alleged sexual assault in the team's hotel. The players had travelled to Thunder Bay that February weekend for a game.

Two of the hockey players, Guillaume Donovan and David Foucher, have been charged with sexual assault.

They are the only two teammates not represented in the class-action suit.

'My son is a good boy,' says father of third terror suspect

Suliman Mohamed.
Family confused
and upset by terror
charges, lawyer says



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The father of a 21-year-old Ottawa man accused of two terrorism-related charges denied the RCMP's allegations and said his son, Suliman Mohamed, is a "good boy."

"My son is not involved in this. But I need to see evidence," said the boy's father, who identified himself as Idris.

The boy's mother, Iwona Buziak, declined to speak to reporters, shouting at them to "stop!" as she left the courthouse Tuesday with Idris and two other young men.

The RCMP arrested Mohamed Monday on Cecil Street in Ottawa, three days after two other local men were swept up in an anti-terrorism investigation by the Integrated National Security Enforcement Team (INSET). Mohamed was charged with participating in the activity of a terrorist group and conspiracy to participate in terrorist activity.

Twin brothers Ashton

and Carlos Larmond, aged 24, face similar charges and are alleged co-conspirators to Mohamed.

Carlos was arrested at Montreal's Pierre Elliot Trudeau airport Friday "as he was intending to travel overseas for terrorist purposes," RCMP alleged. Ashton was arrested in Ottawa.

All three men are being held in custody in Ottawa and are scheduled to return to court Feb. 12.

Mohamed's lawyer, Doug Baum, said he will seek to have his client released on bail.

He described the relationship between his client and the Larmond brothers as "casual acquaintances."

A justice of the peace ordered Mohamed not to communicate with the Larmond brothers while in custody.

Mohamed, who has a shaved head, remained silent in the prisoner's box. He wore a brown sweater and a black T-shirt.

The accusations came as a huge surprise to the family and Mohamed is "confused and upset" about the whole situation, Baum said.

"Naturally, they believe their son hasn't done anything untoward and they're anxious as well to see the disclosure and understand what the nature of the allegations are," the lawyer said.

Shock

"Naturally, they believe their son hasn't done anything untoward and they're anxious as well to see the disclosure and understand what the nature of the allegations are."

Doug Baum, Suliman Mohamed's lawyer



Suliman Mohamed's father, Idris, leaves the Ottawa courthouse Tuesday after his son, accused of two terrorism-related charges, made his first court appearance. JOE LOFARO/METRO

Baum said his client has no criminal history and has never been in any kind of trouble before.

Since federal prosecutor Rod Sonley said he will seek to keep Mohamed in custody, the onus is on the defence to prove to the court that he should be released.

"Sometimes with electronic monitoring or very strong sureties, a person could be released," said Baum.

"He has strong support in

the community, his family is all here."

But Baum said it might be a challenge to get his client a fair trial in light of the Oct. 22 attack at the National War Memorial and on Parliament Hill.

"The court of public opinion is always present and so is that a concern? Of course it's a concern. Especially with the recent events that occurred in Ottawa," said Baum. "We'll deal with that when it comes."



A photo of the accused from Facebook. FACEBOOK.COM

Taxi company probing complaint of distracted driving



This image of a cab driver using a cellphone while driving was posted to an anti-distracted driving Facebook page. COURTESY SEAN CULKIN

Ottawa's biggest taxi company said it is investigating a complaint about a driver talking on a cellphone held to his ear while driving. The probe was launched after a passenger shared pictures of the incident on Facebook.

Hanif Patni, president of Coventry Connections, said it is very rare for these kinds of complaints to come in and this one is being taken seriously.

"Drivers should not be doing that," said Patni Tuesday. "We are seeing the driver to-

morrow."

Senior management will meet with the driver and his union rep to get his side of the story and consider possible warnings or reprimands, he added.

Passenger Sean Culklin, 19, told Metro he used his iPhone to take photos of the chatty driver in a Capital Taxi cab on the afternoon of Jan. 3 in Orleans.

He said the driver was distracted by the phone conversation and had to make an "abrupt" movement with his

cab to avoid coming in contact with another car in the next lane.

"As soon as he picked up the phone I was worried," said Culklin. "I feel like it would have been a lot easier for him to do the movement and predict what was happening and have his mind set on the road instead of on the conversation."

Culklin said he raised the issue with the driver, but the driver only responded with sarcasm.

He posted photos of the

driver and the driver's taxi number on the Help Save Lives — Drive Hands Free Facebook page, created by Rick Levesque, an Ottawa man who is campaigning to change legislation to add demerit points to drivers using handheld devices while driving.

Patni said such complaints are infrequent and said between January 2014 and May 2014, there were 18 complaints. Patni did not have stats for the rest of the year immediately available.

JOE LOFARO/METRO

Ottawa planning massive overhaul of 'Arts Precinct'

Rideau plan.

Councillor touts walkability, while cycling advocate criticizes scheme



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With the Rideau Street area already under a major overhaul, the city is now looking to make the whole surrounding area more pedestrian-friendly with wider sidewalks, more bike lanes and trees.

The Rideau Arts Precinct plan, released Tuesday, looks at the area between Rideau Street, Laurier Avenue, Colonel By Drive and Waller Street — essentially the area that encompasses the Rideau Centre, the future Arts Court redevelopment, a leg of the light rail Confederation Line and a section of the University of Ottawa campus.

The plan includes closing Nicholas Street between Rideau and Besserer to pedestrian traffic, adding a bike lane down the middle of the Mackenzie King Bridge with

Quoted

"It's very awkward and there's nothing about bicycle parking..."

Alex deVries, the vice president of Citizens for Safe Cycling.

planters separating it from vehicles and widening sidewalks on Rideau Street.

"You'll be able to walk from Sandy Hill, from the campus, from the ByWard Market, from the Rideau Centre, from the LRT station, to and from Arts Court really easily," said Rideau-Vanier Coun. Mathieu Fleury. "You won't feel like it's the back of a building. You'll have clear areas to walk and it'll be fun to hang out and to enjoy because there's a lot to be desired there."

Right now the area is also transport-truck heavy, with vehicles travelling through to access Highway 417.

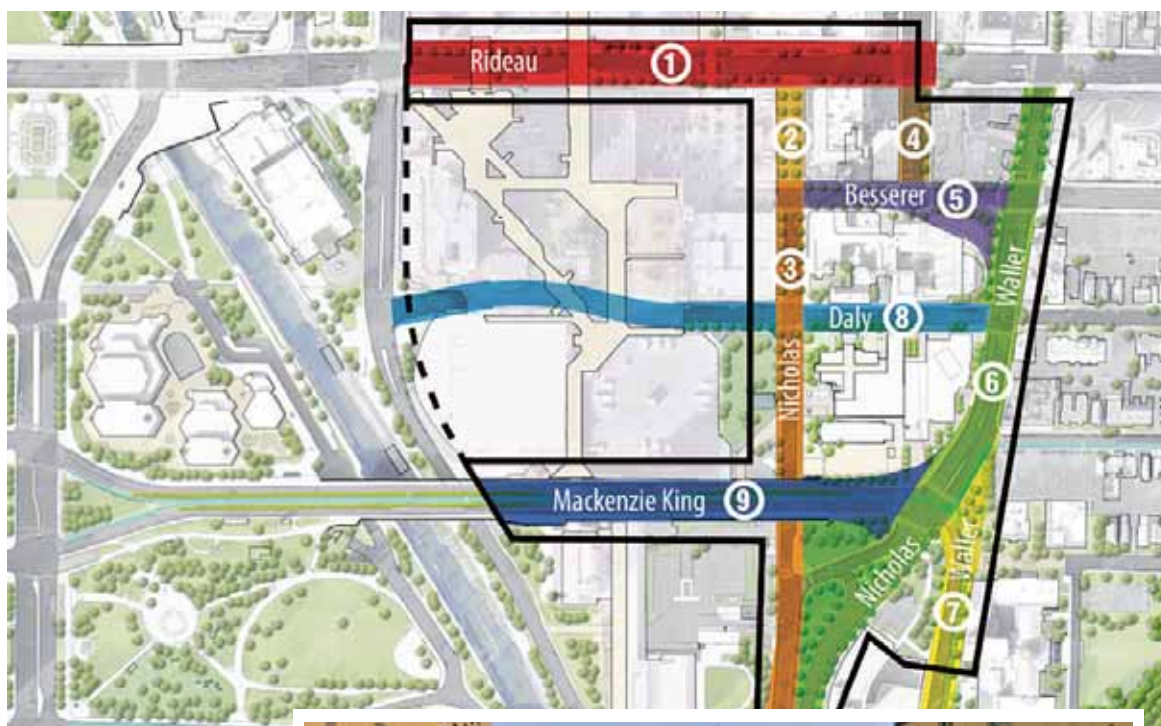
According to the plan, the city is looking at alternative routes for those trucks.

Alex deVries, the vice president of Citizens for Safe Cycling, called the plan "disappointing" for cyclists because it's more geared for pedestrians and cars.

"You can bike down the middle of the Mackenzie King bridge, but there's no real facilities to get from there to the Rideau Centre," he said, later adding, "It's very awkward and there's nothing about bicycle parking or anything like that in the area."

Anyone can view the plan at Ottawa.ca/rideauartsplan and send feedback to the city up until Feb. 10. The planning committee will review the plan and send it to City Council.

Fleury said the goal is to beautify the Rideau Arts Precinct by 2017.



ABOVE: A sketch of the area the city is looking at revamping in its Rideau Arts Precinct plan. The plan aims to make the area more pedestrian-friendly, including widening sidewalks, planting trees and closing down a section of Nicholas Street to foot and bike traffic (as seen above in section 2).

RIGHT: Pictured is a design concept for Waller Street. Ottawa is looking to make Rideau and neighbouring streets more pedestrian-friendly with wider sidewalks and trees.

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'Flames were through the roof' as Barrhaven fire kills couple in 70s

Deadly fire. Cause of inferno still under investigation

A couple in their 70s died in a three-alarm fire that ripped through their Barrhaven home Tuesday morning, Ottawa Fire Services said.

Firefighters responded to the fire, which quickly engulfed the home at 5 Goodwood Dr., around 10:20 a.m.

Fire Services spokesman Marc Messier said the couple's bodies were found separately in the single family home and the first was found on the main floor.

"On arrival, crews confirmed we had a home that was fully involved," Messier said. "The flames were through the roof."

Messier said and the cause of the fire and where it start-



Firefighters work to knock down a fire that ripped through a single family home on Greenwood Drive in Barrhaven Tuesday. ALEX ROBINSON/METROLAND NEWS SERVICE

ed had not yet been determined.

Neighbors identified the couple as Charles and Ada

Morton, but fire services could not confirm their identity.

Neighbors said the couple

had lived in the neighborhood for decades and were original owners of their home.

"They were really down to earth people," said Carlo Vial, who lives nearby. "They were very friendly. We used

Quoted

"They were really down-to-earth people ... They were very friendly. We used to see them walking every day."

Carlo Vial, who lives nearby, talks about the couple killed in the blaze

to see them walking every day."

Neighbours said the couple did not smoke, but they did have a wood-burning fireplace.

Extra crews had to be called in to battle the blaze because of the frigid temperatures Tuesday afternoon. More than 40 firefighters were on scene, working to put out some remaining hot spots.

The Office of the Fire Marshal of Ontario is investigating. **METROLAND NEWS SERVICE**

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Ottawa's The Acorn back on SXSW list

Rolf Klausener promised himself he would never return to South By Southwest.

When the Ottawa musician ventured to the famed music festival — also known as SXSW — with his band, the Acorn, in 2008, they spent thousands of dollars in travel fees and three days rushing from venue to venue to play quick, 25-minute slots.

They arrived in Austin, Texas both excited and green. By the end, both they and their pocketbooks were spent and he says they had little to show for it.

But now Klausener is breaking his promise. With new band members Adam Saikaley and Patrick Johnson, he's heading back to the South by Southwest Music Conference and Festival that runs March 17 to 22.

What's bringing him back? He's armed with two new records — Vieux Loup is due this spring and Palm D'or in the fall — and backed by grants.

He won't be losing money this time, but he won't be making any, either.



Ottawa musician Rolf Klausener plays during the launch of the city's #Ottmusik project on Thursday at Capital Rehearsal Studios.

LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

"I'm going down to sort of get my show legs back in gear and, ideally, maybe (reunite with) some people from my touring past," he said.

It may come as a surprise that a festival like SXSW — which draws more than 16,000 people to its music event alone — would be tough on a Polaris Music Prize-nominated band like the Acorn.

The festival did help the band land a U.S. agent and a publishing deal, but back in 2008, the Acorn was already getting attention south of the border with its full-

length album, Glory Hope Mountain.

The Acorn has been on a touring hiatus since 2011. Klausener has been busy with other projects like the Arboretum Music Festival and Silken Laumann.

This year, he will know what to expect at SXSW — crowds of people screaming, a potential spotting of comedian Louis C.K. eating a hot dog and delicious tacos.

"It's like Canada Day on 'roids. It's just so nuts," said Klausener.

LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

Cairo. Baird's visit may decide journalist's fate

The fate of imprisoned Egyptian-Canadian journalist Mohamed Fahmy could be decided on Thursday when Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird arrives in Cairo.

That's the day Baird meets with Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry after travelling to the tourist city of Luxor on Wednesday to meet with young Egyptians to discuss the country's future.

A Foreign Affairs news release doesn't mention Fahmy by name, but says Baird will raise "important consular issues" with his Egyptian counterpart in Cairo on Thursday.

Earlier this month, an Egyptian court ordered a retrial for Fahmy and his colleagues, Australian correspondent Peter Grete and Egyptian producer Maher Mohamed, but a date has not been set.

Baird has previously said

Deportation under way

Mohamed Fahmy's family said they expect him to be deported before a new trial takes place.

- Fahmy's fiancée Marwa Omara told The Canadian Press in an email from Cairo that the paperwork for his deportation was underway, and that a visit by Baird could expedite the process.

Canada has been working hard behind the scenes to win the release of the Al-Jazeera journalist, who is now in his 13th month in captivity. Baird has met twice recently with his Egyptian counterpart — most recently in Bahrain — to push for the release of the 40-year-old Fahmy. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Iraq mission. CF-18s increase attacks on ISIL

Canadian fighter jets flying over Iraq have stepped up the pace of their attacks on Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) extremists, dropping bombs for five straight days.

Details are sometimes vague about what was hit, but since combat operations started in late October, CF-18 fighters have dropped munitions 22 times and eight of those missions have happened since New Year's Day. And in one five-day stretch ending Jan. 12, CF-18s dropped precision-guided munitions against ISIL targets six times.

The Conservative government dispatched Royal Canadian Air Force aircraft to join the multinational bombing campaign in October. Supported by some 600 military

personnel, the fighters are flying from an airbase in Kuwait on missions over Iraq.

Among their recent bombing runs:

- Jan. 11 and 12: CF-18s strike ISIL fighting positions near Baiji.
- Jan. 10: two CF-18s bomb ISIL staging and storage facilities south of Hadiitha.
- Jan. 9: Two CF-18s supporting ground operations by Iraqi security forces near Ramadi, west of Baghdad, target an ISIL truck carrying an armoured personnel carrier. Later that day, two fighters strike ISIL positions north of Baiji.
- Jan. 8: Two CF-18s supporting ground operations successfully struck an ISIL position near Hadiitha.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Three injured

Pedestrian struck in Pembroke dies

Provincial police say one of three pedestrians struck on Sunday night in Pembroke, Ont., has died of his injuries.

Police say two of the pedestrians were treated and released from hospital. The third was taken to hospital with serious injuries and investigators say he died on Monday. Martial Laverdure, 38, of Pembroke, was charged with one count of dangerous driving.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Report

Alberta premier calls recession projection flawed

Alberta's premier says he does not agree with a Conference Board of Canada suggestion that Alberta is likely to face a recession due to plunging prices of oil. Jim Prentice calls the conference board report an outlier based on analysis that is not particularly convincing. Prentice says the board's report conflicts with other projections. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



The day of the flag draws near

With the 50th birthday of Canada's beloved Maple Leaf flag approaching Feb. 15, some are wondering why there has been so little fanfare from the federal government. The party planning appears to pale in comparison to a multimillion-dollar effort to mark Canada's 150th birthday in 2017, and the \$5.2 million that was spent to mark the bicentennial of the War of 1812. The founder of the Canada Flag Holiday Campaign wrote to Prime Minister Stephen Harper this week to express his disappointment in the government's lack of plans to celebrate the flag, the brainchild of former Liberal prime minister Lester B. Pearson, which was adopted in 1965.

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Parliament security plan to consider range of scenarios

Safety. Co-chairman of security advisory group says plan may involve restricting number of entrances and conducting searches

A co-chairman of the advisory group looking at security in the wake of the Oct. 22 shootings says last week's attack in Paris won't change the plans for Parliament Hill.

Conservative Sen. Vern White, a former police chief, says the new security plan will consider a range of scenarios — from a "lone wolf" incident to a co-ordinated, well-planned assault like the one on Charlie Hebdo last week.

"We are reacting and con-

sidering all possibilities," White said Tuesday during a lunch-hour panel program on Ottawa radio station CFRA.

Michael Zehaf Bibeau's bloody rampage in Ottawa could have been much worse, and security planners recognize the need to protect against better-armed, more co-ordinated attackers, he added.

White said that ought to include reinforcing Parliament Hill's outer perimeter, which extends at least the length of a full city block away from the front doors of the Centre Block, the iconic building that includes the Peace Tower.

"To be blunt, you need to kill them at the gates, you need to kill them on the lawn, you need to kill them outside the building," he said.

"You can't afford to let

them get inside the building. So, whatever the plan looks like to make that reality is what you have to work towards."

Improved security at the edge of the property could involve RCMP officers restricting the number of access points to three from five and conducting searches at those entrances, White suggested.

He said he's proud of the fact Parliament Hill is so publicly accessible, but noted there are lots of opportunities to improve security without disrupting the public's access to the country's seat of democracy.

Last November it was announced that the House of Commons and Senate security officers would patrol the parliamentary precinct under a single command. Members of

Ottawa shooting

Following the fatal shooting of Cpl. Nathan Cirillo at the National War Memorial on Oct. 22, Michael Zehaf Bibeau ran up the eastern driveway of Parliament Hill unchallenged before he hijacked a minister's waiting car and drove the rest of the way to the front doors.

- After running into the Centre Block, Zehaf Bibeau was shot and killed by Kevin Vickers, the Commons sergeant-at-arms, and RCMP security.

the unified parliamentary security team have been trained to carry firearms.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Government to fund Ukrainian famine awareness

Quoted

"It is by remembering the tragedies and atrocities of the past that we can equip ourselves to prevent them from happening again."

Immigration Minister Jason Kenney

The federal government will spend \$1.5 million to sponsor a cross-country project to raise awareness of the Ukrainian famine of the 1930s, known as the Holodomor.

The money will go to the Canada Ukraine Foundation, which will run the tour.

The educational program is expected to start this spring.

The government says the project will teach people — including thousands of stu-

in 1932-33 in which millions starved while resisting Soviet collectivist policies.

In 2008, the Harper government officially recognized the famine as an act of genocide. Immigration Minister Jason Kenney says remembrance is important.

"It is by remembering the tragedies and atrocities of the past that we can equip ourselves to prevent them from happening again," Kenney said in a statement.

There are about 1.2 million Canadians of Ukrainian origin and the Harper government has long courted them — not just with recognition of the Holodomor, but also with strong support for Ukraine in its confrontation with Russia.

Legislation passed by the House of Commons in 2008 designates the fourth Saturday in November as Holodomor Memorial Day.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Muhammad weeps on Charlie Hebdo's cover

Defiant front. Shows prophet holding a sign with words 'All is forgiven' above him

Charlie Hebdo released a new version of its irreverent and often offensive newspaper Tuesday, defiantly putting a caricature of the Prophet Muhammad on the cover that drew immediate criticism and threats of more violence.

The newspaper also skewered other religions, and ran a double-page spread illustrating Sunday's march in Paris that drew more than a million people to condemn terrorism, claiming that the turnout was larger "than for Mass."

"For the past week, Charlie, an atheist newspaper, has achieved more miracles than all the saints and prophets combined," it said in the lead editorial. "The one we are most proud of is that you have in your hands the newspaper that



Patrick Pellous, Charlie Hebdo journalist and president of Liberation magazine, holds the new issue of Charlie hebdo at a press conference at the Liberation offices in Paris on Tuesday. AURELIEN MEUNIER/GETTY IMAGES

we always made."

Charlie Hebdo planned an unprecedented print run of three million copies Wednesday — one week to the day

after the assault by two masked gunmen that killed 12 people, including much of its editorial staff and two police officers. It was the beginning of three

days of terror that saw 17 people killed before the three Islamic extremist attackers were gunned down by security forces.

Surviving staff members are now using the offices of the Liberation newspaper, which has loaned out space.

The latest cover shows a weeping Muhammad, holding a sign reading "I am Charlie" with the words "All is forgiven" above him.

Zineb El Rhazoui, a journalist with the weekly, said the cover meant the journalists are forgiving the extremists for the attack.

Renald Luzier, the cartoonist who drew the cover image under the pen name "Luz" said it represents "just a little guy who's crying."

Then he added, unapologetically: "Yes, it is Muhammad."

Speaking at a news conference in Paris on Tuesday at which he repeatedly broke down crying, Luzier described weeping after he drew the picture. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Anti-terrorism

PM asks for tougher measures

France's prime minister demanded tougher anti-terrorism measures Tuesday after deadly attacks that some call this country's Sept. 11 — and that may already be leading to a crackdown on liberties in exchange for greater security.

Police told The Associated Press that the weapons used came from abroad, as authorities in several countries searched for possible accomplices and the sources of financing for last week's attacks on the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo, a kosher market and police. A new suspect was identified in Bulgaria.

Germany. Leaders push for tolerance

German political and religious leaders appealed for tolerance Tuesday in the wake of the Paris terror attacks, a message meant to counter both religious extremists and growing anti-Islam protests in Germany.

Chancellor Angela Merkel and President Joachim Gauck were among those who took part in the rally organized by Muslim groups near Berlin's iconic Brandenburg Gate and the French embassy, where wreaths were laid for the 17 people killed by Islamic extremists in Paris last week.

A group calling itself Patriotic Europeans against the Islamization of the West, or PEGIDA, has been staging anti-Islam protests in the eastern city of Dresden for the last three months. Its latest protest Monday drew a record 25,000 supporters, with speakers citing the Paris attacks as proof of the danger posed by Islam.

Attempts to stage similar protests in other German cities, however, have been met with overwhelming opposition. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Nigeria's conflict with Islamic militants grinds on



Children stand near the scene of an explosion in a mobile phone market in Potiskum, Nigeria, Monday. Two female suicide bombers targeted the busy marketplace on Sunday. ADAMU ADAMU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nigeria's president was among leaders who condemned last week's attack by Islamic extremists on the French satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo, yet his response to the slaughter of civilians by militants in his own country has been muted.

Some commentators criticized President Goodluck Jonathan's reticence about the violence in Nigeria's Baga town, and the lack of a broader international outcry on par with the reaction to the attacks in France. The slogan "I am Baga" — a play on "I am

Charlie," the expression of solidarity with the targeted French weekly — is now circulating on social media.

The global sympathy and the defiant rally in Paris that drew foreign leaders after the assaults that killed 17 people overshadowed the killing of hundreds and perhaps as many as 2,000 people in Baga, a northeastern town near Chad.

Jonathan, who has been touting his domestic record ahead of a re-election bid next month, was quick to express solidarity with France.

He did not release a similarly forceful statement about Baga. The attack there started on Jan. 3 and was another bloody marker in a murky, grinding conflict in which information is often scarce, the insurgency is seen by many as a local problem and violence is routine.

The United Nations, the United States and other countries have condemned the violence by Islamic extremist group Boko Haram, and international aid groups are mobilizing to help survivors.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baga killings

Survivors of the Baga killings described the horrors they witnessed but independent reporting from the scene is virtually impossible for now because the town remains under Boko Haram control. Accounts of the numbers of casualties vary widely. The Nigerian military said 150 people were confirmed dead, but other estimates put the toll at several hundred and as high as 2,000.

AirAsia crash

Divers retrieve 2nd black box, search for fuselage

Divers retrieved the crashed AirAsia plane's second black box from the bottom of the Java Sea on Tuesday, giving experts essential tools to piece together what brought Flight 8501 down.

The cockpit voice recorder was freed from beneath heavy wreckage at a depth of about 30 metres, a day after the flight data recorder was recovered, said Tonny Budiono, sea navigation director at the Transportation Ministry.

The device will be flown to the capital, Jakarta, to be analyzed with the other black box, a process that could take up to two weeks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Will he walk free?

Egypt overturns last conviction of Mubarak

An appeals court on Tuesday overturned the last remaining conviction against Egypt's deposed leader Hosni Mubarak and ordered his retrial on corruption charges, opening the door for his possible release.

The ruling, just days

before the fourth anniversary of the start of the 2011 anti-Mubarak uprising, pointed to how far Egypt has moved away from its revolutionary fervour to "bring down the regime."

Meanwhile, hundreds of the young activists and pro-change leaders from 2011 are either languishing in prison on charges of breaking a law against protests or have left the country.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Hague

Ugandan rebel leader to be tried

Uganda's military said Tuesday the Lord's Resistance Army rebel commander who surrendered to American troops last week will be taken to The Hague for trial.

Dominic Ongwen is now in U.S. custody in Obo, a town in eastern Central African Republic, the country

where he surrendered on Jan. 6, Uganda army spokesman Lt. Col. Paddy Ankunda said.

"Finally it has been decided. Dominic (sic) Ongwen will be tried at the ICC in the Hague," Ankunda tweeted. The United Nations, African Union, Uganda and United States consulted on the decision to try him at the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deposit on homes a phone tap away

Real estate purchases. New service called ExactDeposit expected to be rolled out in the spring, in brokerages across the country

The mad scramble involved in putting down a deposit on a new home can be more than just a hassle — in some cases it can be a deal-breaker.

In an age where most purchases can be paid with a tap from a credit card or smartphone, the process of paying a deposit to secure a real estate deal is still tied to old-fashioned paper — bank drafts and cheques — and tight delivery deadlines.

But the process that often involves homeowners making multiple bank visits, skipping work and racing to the realtor's office before closing time

could soon be entering a new era. Starting in February, Royal LePage Atlantic will be one of several Halifax-area brokerages that will allow homebuyers to pay their deposits via mobile devices.

Halifax-based realtor Chris Ryan co-founded ExactDeposit with his friend Kevin Kline, who has worked in technology and telecommunications for more than two decades. The pair enlisted the help of computer science PhD candidates at Dalhousie University to develop a secure and mobile-friendly website that allows homebuyers to pay their deposits — around \$5,000 on average — using credit cards, a smartphone, tablet or computer. Realtors will pay less than \$10 a month for unlimited usage, while homebuyers will be charged 2.9 per cent of their transaction — a price that Kline admits may be too steep for some.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

2015 top tech trend

Deloitte picks mobile payment

More Canadians will be reaching for their cellphones to pay for purchases this year, predicts global professional services firm Deloitte.

A report, released Tuesday, sees 2015 as a "tipping point" for retailers, banks and telecom companies to adopt the technology, which allows consumers to pay with their smartphones.

Duncan Stewart, a director at Deloitte Canada, said there now are more phone models with the technology, called near field communication, and more retail locations that can accept the payments.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Alleged Silk Road kingpin on trial in N.Y.C.

Supporters of Ross Ulbricht, the alleged creator and operator of the Silk Road underground market, stand in front of a courthouse in New York City Tuesday on the first day of jury selection for his trial. The San Francisco man is charged with running an online black market where drugs were sold as easily as books and electronics. Prosecutors have been allowed to introduce evidence about six alleged murder plots. The government maintains that Ulbricht attempted to protect his operation by asking others to kill those who posed a threat to his business. SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

Market Minute

DOLLAR
83.65¢ (+ 0.09¢)

TSX
14,187.16 (- 77.85)

OIL
\$45.89 US (- 18¢)

GOLD
\$1,234.40 US (+ \$1.60)

Natural gas: \$ 2.943 (+14.8¢)
Dow Jones: 17,613.68 (- 27.16)

Oil prices fallout

Suncor Energy cutting 1,000 jobs

Suncor Energy is reducing its workforce by 1,000 and cutting \$1 billion from its capital budget in response to falling crude oil prices.

The Calgary-based oil sands giant says the job cuts will mainly affect contractors, but include some employee positions.

Projects that haven't yet been given a final go-ahead are being deferred, such as expansions to the MacKay River steam-driven oil sands

project and the White Rose development off the east coast. But major projects under construction such as the Fort Hills mine and the Hebron field in offshore Newfoundland are moving ahead as planned.

On Monday, Canadian Natural Resources Ltd. announced it would slash its 2015 budget by 28 per cent. One of its oil sands projects called Kirby North is being deferred and drilling activity in Western Canada is going to be slowed substantially. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Punctuality. AirTran goes out in style

AirTran Airways tops all U.S. airlines in the latest rankings for on-time arrivals, knocking off perennial winner Hawaiian Airlines.

The bad news for passengers who love punctuality: You can't fly on AirTran anymore. The low-fare carrier flew its last flight on Dec.

28 and has been folded into Southwest Airlines, which bought AirTran in 2011.

AirTran posted a 90.4 per cent rating, and Hawaiian was second at 89.4 per cent.

Envoy Air finished last with an on-time rating of 69.3 per cent. Envoy operates many American Eagle

regional flights for American Airlines.

The U.S. Department of Transportation said Tuesday that 80.6 per cent of domestic flights on the 14 biggest airlines arrived within 14 minutes of schedule in November.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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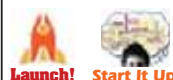
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VOICES

FALL IN LOVE RIGHT NOW

Try a little social experiment. Turn to the person sitting beside you on the train or bus and go through the 36-point exercise printed below. It could make you fall in love.

It apparently worked for Mandy Len Catron, a University of British Columbia writing teacher, who fell in love with a man after going through this very exercise and staring into his eyes for exactly four minutes.

The experiment was created more than 20 years ago by psychologist Arthur Aron, who says he successfully got strangers to fall in love by having them ask and answer a series of questions that gradually become more and more intimate. Len Catron recently wrote about her experience in the *New York Times*, detailing how she and an acquaintance recreated the experiment at a bar one night, and two hours later, were in love. Skeptical? Give these a try!



Grab a random stranger and start asking questions: It just might lead to love. ISTOCK

1. Given the choice of anyone in the world, whom would you want as a dinner guest?

2. Would you like to be famous? In what way?

3. Before making a telephone call, do you ever rehearse what you are going to say? Why?

4. What would constitute a "perfect" day for you?

5. When did you last sing to yourself? To someone else?

6. If you were able to live to the age of 90 and retain either the mind or body of a 30-year-old for the last 60 years of your life, which would you want?

7. Do you have a secret hunch about how you will die?

8. Name three things you and your partner appear to have in common.

9. For what in your life do you feel most grateful?

10. If you could change anything about the way

you were raised, what would it be?

11. Take four minutes and tell your partner your life story in as much detail as possible.

12. If you could wake up tomorrow having gained any one quality or ability, what would it be?

13. If a crystal ball could tell you the truth about yourself, your life, the future or anything else, what would you want to know?

14. Is there something that you've dreamt of doing for a long time? Why haven't you done it?

15. What is the greatest accomplishment of your life?

16. What do you value most in a friendship?

17. What is your most treasured memory?

18. What is your most terrible memory?

19. If you knew that in one year you would die sud-

denly, would you change anything about the way you are now living? Why?

20. What does friendship mean to you?

21. What roles do love and affection play in your life?

22. Alternate sharing something you consider a positive characteristic of your partner. Share a total of five items.

23. How close and warm is your family? Do you feel your childhood was happier than most other people's?

24. How do you feel about your relationship with your mother?

25. Make three true "we" statements each. For instance, "We are both in this room feeling ..."

26. Complete this sentence: "I wish I had someone with whom I could share ..."

27. If you were going to become a close friend with

your partner, please share what would be important for him or her to know.

28. Tell your partner what you like about them; be very honest this time, saying things that you might not say to someone you've just met.

29. Share with your partner an embarrassing moment in your life.

30. When did you last cry in front of another person? By yourself?

31. Tell your partner something that you like about them already.

32. What, if anything, is too serious to be joked about?

33. If you were to die this evening with no opportunity to communicate with anyone, what would you most regret not having told someone? Why haven't you told them yet?

34. Your house, containing everything you own, catches fire. After saving your loved ones and pets, you have time to safely make a final dash to save any one item. What would it be? Why?

35. Of all the people in your family, whose death would you find most disturbing? Why?

36. Share a personal problem and ask your partner's advice on how he or she might handle it. Also, ask your partner to reflect back to you how you seem to be feeling about the problem you have chosen.

Don't forget to stare at each other for four minutes after

Et voilà! You should be deciding on the names of your children right about now. **METRO**

SO ... DID IT WORK?

Let us know at readers@metronews.ca

I broke my back sledding a decade ago, and I'm still suffering



DYLAN REARDON

readers@metronews.ca

I've watched the debate about whether cities should ban tobogganing with some interest. Sledding can be dangerous, and I think municipalities should have some control over where it happens. I should know. I broke my back a decade ago while sledding at Confederation Park in Calgary, and my life has been altered by that event.

On Boxing Day of 2003, my brother and I decided to go sledding. I hadn't been tobogganing in a decade and the weather was fantastic: Sunny, blue skies, mild temperature — there may have been Chinook that day.

Upon arriving at the hill, there were ominous signs that amused me at the time: a broken GT Snow Racer ski, pieces of shattered crazy carpets,

lost gloves, helmets, etc. Years later and after the fact, I like to refer to the scene as a toboggan graveyard. My brother went down the hill first on a large plastic disk. The snow was compact, presumably from thrill seekers leading up to that day, and because the weather was quite warm, the snow had melted and re-frozen a few times. As a result, he went like a bat out of hell as I watched anxiously.

It was my turn. I didn't even have a chance to put my legs back onto the toboggan before I was completely out of control. My journey down the hill seemed like minutes, and the whole time I was using my legs as breaks to try and slow my speed. And then, BAM! It was a feeling I have trouble describing. A feeling I cannot forget. My entire body felt like it was broken in half. All I felt was pain. It was fierce and relentless, and I've never felt anything like it since.

When I arrived at the hospital, they tied me down to a table for two weeks, before placing me in a body cast for six months. I had suffered a burst-compression fracture of my L1 vertebra.

While in hospital, I was told that tobogganing accidents are incredibly common, and one of the reasons for this is that the human derriere isn't built to absorb the extreme forces that come from tobogganing. Unlike, say, the knees when you're skiing.

Since the accident I've suffered from chronic pain and an inability to sit down or sleep for any length of time. I can walk, but in a very limited sense: typically no more than a few hundred metres before back pain gets too intense. When this happens, my legs also become weak.

The medications to deal with this are brutal, in that they make me incredibly tired and zombie-like. Since the break I've been losing more

and more feeling in my legs. About 40 per cent total loss right now. The reason for this is because over-compensation has led to increased degeneration of my spine directly above where I broke my back.

Like every sport or activity, tobogganing carries risks and dangers. My accident was a freak accident. I could have broken my neck on the boards playing hockey. I could have been hit in the head with a golf ball while on the back nine.

I do not agree with an outright ban, and limiting times and conditions seems like ridiculous government overreach. However, designating safe places to toboggan seems like a prudent course of action. There are inherent risks in any activity, but we can try to minimize those risks.

Dylan Reardon is a Calgary-based student and writer. He runs the satirical news website *Urban Anomie*.

Gossip

NED EHRBAR

METRO'S TAKE ON
THE WORLD OF
CELEBRITIES



Leonardo DiCaprio GETTY IMAGES

Leo and RiRi play the flirting game

Rihanna
GETTY IMAGES



Leonardo DiCaprio and Rihanna were spotted living it up together at a recent Playboy Mansion party, which admittedly sounds like a game of Hollywood gossip Madlibs. But when it comes to how intimate they were getting, we're left with a different game all together: duelling anonymous sources.

One such source claims that DiCaprio and Rihanna were be-

ing incredibly flirty, going so far as locking lips at the soiree.

But another? "No one was making out. They are just friends. That's it," the second source tells E! News. "There was a big group dancing. Tom Hardy, Naomi Campbell and a bunch of other people. Everyone was having a good time together. Maybe a little bit of friendly flirting, but no scandal here."

Oh, you're no fun.

Well, that's creepy! Jen on Billy Bob's to-do list

Everyone has goals, dreams, items on their bucket list, things they really want to do. For a newly minted Golden Globe winner, that includes Jennifer Aniston.

Billy Bob Thornton did a bit of an overshare backstage at the Globes when Access Hollywood

challenged him to a game of Would You Rather, pitting celebrities against each other to vie for the Fargo star's amorous attention. Asked to choose between Reese Witherspoon and Aniston, Thornton quickly replied, "Jennifer Aniston, lifelong goal. That's all I'm saying." A simple yes or no would have sufficed.

He even doubled down when presented with a choice between Aniston and Keira Knightley, saying, "Jennifer Aniston. How

many times does it take you to get this through your head?"

The creepiness of his fixation aside, he at least gets high comedy marks for his response to the options of Bill Murray and Christoph Waltz:

"I don't even know what the second one is, so Bill Murray." The second one, Mr. Thornton, is someone who has more Oscars than you. Just so you know.



Billy Bob Thornton, Jennifer Aniston GETTY IMAGES



Yeah, it's true. Katy Perry's back with John Mayer and her friends are alarmed

So those rumours about Katy Perry and John Mayer being back together? They've got legs. In fact: "Katy and John are back together," a source tells Radar Online. And the reunion flies in the face of her pals' stern disapproval.

"Although her friends have warned her to be careful, she is already ignoring all of the red flags," the source explains. "She is not listening to anyone and is going into this full force."

Oh no! Not full force! There aren't any more intense forces than that!



Katy Perry GETTY IMAGES

Will & Grace reunion yet another of life's mysteries

This kind of feels like nostalgia ransom. Say you really, really want to see a reunion between Will & Grace stars Debra Messing and Eric McCormack. Sounds great, right? But are you so eager for it that you'll sit through an episode of Mysteries of Laura to see it? That's the gamble NBC is reportedly making, as the network has revealed that McCormack will be guest-starring on

Messing's beleaguered, poorly reviewed new series as a "roguish, arrogant-as-can-be heart surgeon" and former fiancé of Messing's title character. Oh, and he's a murder suspect. Having tried to watch a few episodes of Mysteries of Laura, I'm wondering if maybe we should just go ahead and continue living in a world without a Will & Grace reunion.



Will & Grace CONTRIBUTED

And baby makes twee... Zooezy expecting first child

The nice thing about all these celebrities having lifestyle websites is that they can handle all their big life announcements themselves.

Much like Blake Lively did last October on Preserve, New Girl star Zooezy Deschanel has used Hello Giggles to reveal that she is pregnant. Deschanel and boyfriend Jacob Pechenik are expecting their first child together this summer.

"Jacob and I are over the moon. We are so excited to meet our little one," Deschanel says in a statement.



Zooezy Deschanel GETTY IMAGES

As of press time, there was no word on how chunky the baby's bangs would eventually be.

2 SCENE



Scott Foley CONTRIBUTED

Scott Foley knows just how to dispose of a body

Q&A. Don't worry, Scandal actor says it was only for research for his new movie, Let's Kill Ward's Wife



NED EHRBAR
Metro in Hollywood

Scott Foley knows you're not the biggest fan of his character on Scandal, so he wasn't all that concerned with turning viewers off by playing the character who does the deed in Let's Kill Ward's Wife, a dark comedy he also wrote and directed. Just be careful how much you criticize him, since he's exceptionally well-versed in how to dispose of human bodies now.

I'm always a fan of darker humour, but it can be risky.

We knew going into this that there were going to be a lot of people who don't feel that way with this.

How do you prepare yourself for those kinds of reactions?

I'm sort of used to it at this point. I knew going into this that you can please all of the people some of the time and some of the people all the time, right? But you can't please all of the people all the time. There's something liberating about that. You like it? You don't? OK. I'm happy with the film that I made, and if you get it, I think you're going to enjoy it. And if you don't, it's not for you.

I've heard the secret is to just figure out what you want to see and make that.

Mmmhmm, yeah. And you hope at some point, someone out there is like, "Hey, I kind

of like what he likes, too!" Or else you stop making films.

It's interesting that you can find so much sympathy for a character that up and decides to kill his best friend's wife.

That was a challenge, especially now with the NFL and all this talk of domestic violence, it's just the wrong time. But the great thing is we sort of reversed the roles. The domestic abuse is being perpetrated on the gentleman this time instead of the woman in the relationship, and how his friends decide to take things into their own hands — whether it be accidental or on purpose — is a different story. But it was a hard balance between the gruesome and the heavy stuff and trying to find moments of levity.

And I'm assuming you picked up some interest-

ing new skill sets while researching this script.

I probably spent about two days on the Internet going to these deep, dark websites that maybe me and one other weird guy had ever gone to and learning all the ways to dismember a body, to decompose a body, to get rid of a body — how to do it so the dogs don't smell the scent. One of the things that I found that I didn't use in the film is that if you put a body in a bag with kitty litter, it'll turn into jelly in a month. So f—ed up, but true. I'm surprised no one knocked on my door going, "Hey, what are you doing, Mr. Foley?"

It does still seem like an odd thing to become an expert in.

Yeah, but you've got to specialize. You've got to focus. And if that's your thing, that's your thing.

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Pete Hammond, Deadline

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Cult TV. Twin Peaks revival includes return of Kyle MacLachlan

The American actor will reprise his role as Agent Dale Cooper in new episodes of Twin Peaks, the cult detective series presented by David Lynch and Mark Frost in 1990. Showtime will air this new season in 2016, 25 years after the last episode aired on ABC.

Confirmed by Lynch himself last October, the Twin Peaks revival will be a mini-series with nine episodes, all written by the filmmaker in collaboration with Frost, who co-developed the original series.

A quarter century after the high school student Laura Palmer was found dead by a lake in Twin Peaks, FBI agent Dale Cooper will return to the strange town for a new investigation set in the present day. Kyle MacLachlan will return to this role, which helped to launch his career at the time. Since then, the actor has confirmed his talent in several series, including Sex and the City, Desperate Housewives, How I Met Your Mother, The Good Wife and Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.

First broadcast by ABC from April to June in 1990,



Kyle MacLachlan GETTY IMAGES

Twin Peaks regularly makes its way into TV critics' lists of the most influential shows of all time.

Like many of Lynch's films, the cult series combines suspense with humour and reality with fantasy, often through the juxtaposition of dreamlike elements with everyday settings. **AFP**

Netflix

House of Cards is back Feb. 27

Netflix has released the trailer for the political drama's coming season.

Between the harrowing soundtrack, rapid succession of images and serious expressions on the characters' faces, the trailer suggests the next season of House of Cards will be more intense and chaotic than ever.

"You wanna know what takes real courage? Holding it all together when the stakes are this high," insists President Frank Underwood (Kevin Spacey) in a strict, perhaps even threatening tone.

First Lady Claire Underwood (Robin Wright) concludes the trailer with the line "We're murderers, Francis." One wonders whether she is reminding her husband of events in the past or referring to incidents to come in this new season.

The third season of House of Cards received a welcome boost Sunday, when Kevin Spacey won the Golden Globe for best actor in a drama for his performance in the previous season. **AFP**

We'll miss you, good people of Pawnee: Bidding farewell to Parks and Recreation

Final season. Can we really live in a world with no more quotes from Ron Swanson? We'll just have to try

LISA WEIDENFELD
Metro in New York City

The sad day is finally upon us: We must now begin saying goodbye to Leslie Knope and the parks department on Parks and Recreation. The show started its final season last night, and while it has come close to being cancelled nearly every season it's been on, that doesn't make the prospect of saying farewell any easier.

Parks and Recreation found a devoted audience who loved its optimistic humour and careful creation of a fictional but delightful town. Here are the five things we'll miss most about the show.

Co-workers who actually like each other

- The cubicle drones of The Office often seemed to be living in a state of barely concealed distaste for each other, but Parks and Recreation has generally gone in the opposite direction, with the exception of poor Jerry. Or Gary. Or possibly Barry, by this point.
- As different as the various Parks department employees are, they've always been supportive of each other's endeavours, from Donna investing in the Snakehole Lounge with Tom to the way everyone pulled together for Leslie's ill-fated city councilwoman campaign.

The town of Pawnee, Ind.

We may not have known much about humble Pawnee at the beginning, but we've all grown to love the residents of the town (which we all know is First in Friendship, Fourth in Obesity).

And who hasn't enjoyed learning about the colourful Pawnee city mottos? There was the time they got taken over by the cult of Zorp, or the time they claimed to be the birthplace of Julia Roberts, then got sued for it. Mostly, we'll miss the town's

historical murals, each of which is more offensive than the last.

Leslie Knope herself

At its best, the show found great ways to translate Amy Poehler's high-energy screen presence into a character who was both hugely dorky and inspirational.

Sure, she loved organizing everything in binders, and went overboard in every facet of her life, but Leslie was that rare comedic creation whose arc combined personal and

professional achievements in a way that made everyone root for her.

The couples

Remember the episode when April and Andy got married on a whim, only a few episodes after starting to date? It's unlikely anyone would have guessed those two would be the most stable relationship on the show, but the writers always found cute, funny ways to make them work as a couple, despite Andy's cluelessness and April's hatred of, well, everything.

And while we're happy Ron found love with Lucy Lawless' Diane, we're sad we won't get to see any new adventures between Ron and Tammy, because Nick Offerman and Megan Mullally brought just the right degree of crazy every time they were onscreen together.

It always warmed your heart

Parks has gotten a lot of credit over the years for the warmth of its humour. The show



Amy Poehler as Leslie Knope on Parks and Recreation. CONTRIBUTED

makes you laugh at the antics of its characters, but never sneers at them or asks viewers to mock them. Sure, we knew most of Tom's business schemes were doomed to failure, but he's now started a few

successful ones, and no one on the show treated him like he was a fool for dreaming of a life beyond Pawnee. And as outlandish as Leslie's behaviour got, the people around her always loved her for it.



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How-to

Save money at the airport

1. Rather than shelling out a taxi fare at the airport's front door, persuade a friend or relative to drive you.
2. Take a bus, train or the local transit to and from the airport, even if it means leaving home earlier — and packing lighter.
3. Take an empty water bottle through security, then fill it up on the other side. You don't need to pay \$5 for a bottle of water.
4. Coffee up at home.
5. Bring foods that are easy to pack — sushi, sandwiches — and skip departure lounge food.
6. Avoid the shops! Bring books, magazines and sundries like batteries with you. **DOUG WALLACE/METRO**

Tool

Sunscreen app

Heading south? Load this free app onto your phone to keep sunburns to a minimum. You enter your location, skin type and the SPF of your lotion. The app then detects the UV Index rating of your sunny spot and sets a timer to alert you when it's time to apply more sunscreen. It also comes with info on health precautions to help you avoid the dreaded lobster look and other more serious problems. Free for Android and iOS.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO



Deals

Cuba for less

Cuba has always been the cheap and cheerful route for a week at the beach. Sunwing is making it even more attractive with deals on a few all-inclusive Cuban resorts they've recently started to work with, including up to 45 per cent off the new, 530-room Memories Holguin Beach Resort in Holguin. Get up to 20 per cent off at the new five-star Royalton Hicacos Resort & Spa in Varadero and up to 25 per cent off at the new Starfish Cayo Santa Maria, which is gigantic at 1,300+ rooms. Visit Sunwing.ca.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO

The winding trails of Wales

Hiking haven. This rugged country offers both epic journeys and leisurely walks

Looking for a hiking vacation that's off the beaten track but guaranteed to delight with an array of trails for all skill sets, amazing views, quaint accommodations, a wealth of history and top-notch cuisine?

Consider Wales.

The mountainous country, part of the United Kingdom, is bordered by England in the east, the Irish Sea to the north and west and the Bristol Channel in the south.

There are several world-class hiking regions, all distinct, all worth seeing, and situated close enough to one another that most of Wales can be explored in as little as a week via rental car.

There are no direct Canadian flights to Wales, but fly into any of the major London airports and connect to either Cardiff, Swansea or Liverpool. From Liverpool, it's a quick jaunt into the northern reaches of Wales, where you can start your hiking vacation in the Llandudno and Colwyn Bay area.

The hiking highlight of the region is the Great Orme, a coastal landmark more than 200 metres above sea level with Stone Age origins.

There's a circular walk around the headland that starts and finishes at the summit, providing spectacular views of Liverpool Bay and the Irish Sea, the Carneddau mountains, the island of Anglesey and the Menai Strait — a stretch of which is called the "swellies" by locals due to its hazardous whirlpools and surges.

History lovers shouldn't miss Conwy Castle, built by Edward I during his conquest of Wales between 1283 and 1289. It's among the best-preserved



A hiker takes in the view at Snowdonia. THE CANADIAN PRESS

medieval fortifications in Britain, and visitors can wander its battlements at will.

From Colwyn Bay, veer southwest into the grandeur of Snowdonia.

The famously stunning region is dotted with picturesque villages. Stop at Betws-y-coed on your drive in, an impossibly pretty riverside hamlet with a cosy pub located at the Ty Gwyn Hotel and featuring an excellent menu. The local steamed mussels and salt-marsh lamb shouldn't be missed.

To work off your lunch, there are trails for hikers of all capabilities. Expert climbers can take on the seven-hour hike up Mount Snowdon, the highest peak in south Britain, via the Crib's Goch knife-edge ridge, but there are plenty of other shorter, less hair-raising hikes through the dramatic hills of the region.

From Snowdonia, veer back northwest to Anglesey. The highlight of the island is the spectacular South Stack Light-

house, perched on another rugged, windswept isle joined to Anglesey by an aluminum bridge and open for exploration by tourists. There are plenty of hiking trails in the area, including an hour-long hike that starts in Breakwater Country Park in nearby Holyhead and leads to South Stack. The Anglesey Coastal Path also passes by South Stack.

Next stop? The Llyn Peninsula, southwest of Anglesey. While the hills are gentler than those in Snowdonia, the hiking in Llyn is every bit as scenic.

Head to the Yr Eifl region, the highest point on the peninsula. There are three peaks, but we tackled the challenging Tre'r Ceiri because it has one of the best examples of an Iron Age hill fort in northern Europe.

Just prepare for what feels at times like a full-on vertical climb to the rocky summit, although it's well worth the effort — the panoramic views atop the peak are phenomenal.

Reflect on the splendour over some fantastic Welsh craft beers at the nearby beachside pub at the Ty Coch Inn, located in the picture-postcard seaside village of Porthdinllaen.

Featuring a hearty menu ranging from garlic mussels to bangers and mash, it was named one of the world's best beach bars in 2013. But be prepared: You have to walk about a kilometre along the beach, or alongside a golf course on top of the headland behind the village, to get to the pub.

From the Llyn Peninsula, take a quick jaunt east to Portmeirion, a popular tourist destination designed and built by an English-born Welsh architect in the style of a somewhat gaudy Mediterranean village, complete with gilded statues of naked men and ornate buildings painted in pastel colours.

Located on the estuary of the River Dwyryd, Portmeirion has served as the location for dozens of films and even music festivals, though it was

If you go...

Check out the Visit Wales website at visitwales.com for accommodation options, including cottage rentals, working farms, camper vans and hiking recommendations. Wales Tourists Online (walestouristsonline.co.uk) also has an extensive database of accommodations options.

most famously the setting of the 1960s television show *The Prisoner*.

From the weird and wacky Portmeirion, head south to Pembrokeshire, home to some of the most awe-inspiring beaches you'll ever set eyes on.

Get onto the Wales Coastal Path near St. David's and make the two-hour hike northeast to the tiny former quarry town of Porthgain for lunch or dinner. The seafood on offer at two pubs there, including crab and fresh catches of the day, is amazing.

Along the hike to Porthgain, the wide sandy beaches nestled amid the majestic fjord-like rock walls along the rugged coast will shock and awe. They're popular among local surfers; for those who haven't mastered a surfboard, the body-surfing is awesome, too.

The final leg of the journey is the Gower Peninsula, no stranger itself to world-famous beaches. The sweeping, golden Rhossili Beach, on the southwestern tip of the peninsula, is eye-poppingly long and wide, surrounded by steep cliffs where sheep graze precariously and some even topple to their deaths.

The only possible downside to a Welsh hiking vacation? The rain. Pack rain gear, because all-day sunny hiking weather is rarely a guarantee.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bucket list



Palm Springs, California

Now's the time to start planning Palm Springs, so you can nab one of the cool mid-century modern bungalows for a week by the pool, before they book up. This little resort community of 45,000 people 175 kilometres east of Los Angeles is a great spot to relax and explore, golf, play tennis, and generally soak up the Hollywood playground vibe. If it was good enough for Frank Sinatra, it's good enough for you. Both the Coachella and Stagecoach music festivals are big draws in early spring, and there are numerous film festivals throughout the year. Check out VisitPalmSprings.com for listings.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO, PHOTO: PALM SPRINGS BUREAU OF TOURISM

Beyond the beach.

This little Dutch colony has incredible architecture, shipwrecks and diving



ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

If you're looking to sunbathe all day long, the island of Curaçao may not be your best choice. But if you're a snorkeller, scuba diver, foodie, history junkie, golfer or culture vulture, this former Dutch colony — located approximately 60 kilometres off the coast of Venezuela — is the perfect vacation destination.

The unique capital of Willemstad is a bustling port city that earned UNESCO World Heritage status in 1997 due to its incredible collection of Dutch colonial architecture. Picture the unique gabled houses of Amsterdam painted in vibrant pastels and peppered with palm trees. The vibe is



The lighthouse on Klein-Curaçao is a spectacular site. PETER REMUS/METRO

strongly Dutch, but the influences of Spanish, English and the local Papiamentu people are also evident in all aspects of life including the music and cuisine. The food at the Gouverneur de Rouville reflects the cosmopolitan makeup of the island and the service, ambiance

and views at this charming heritage building overlooking the harbour are outstanding.

The island's beaches, a mix of both public and private access, are small and tend to be crowded. However, for snorkellers and divers, beaches such as Playa Kalki and Playa Lagun

make great welcome mats to an entire ocean of coral and exotic fish.

Devoid of permanent populations, the tiny neighbouring island of Klein-Curaçao offers a long stretch of white sand beach as well as an abandoned lighthouse and two shipwrecks

to explore. It's well worth the two-hour boat trip there and back, but be warned: The sometimes rocky voyage is not for people with sensitive stomachs.

Although home to American chain hotels such as Marriott and Hilton, the local Kura Hulanda properties make for a more interesting accommodation choice. The Village & Spa is a boutique hotel in downtown Willemstad occupying 65 intricately restored buildings, which showcase the city's Dutch architectural history. On the west end of the island, the Kura Hulanda Lodge is a stunning resort, with a world-class reef just off shore. I travelled to Curaçao as part of a large group, so we opted to rent a villa, which was not only more affordable than most of the hotels, but it gave us the chance to live like locals. We made several of our dinners from bounty scored at the supermarket and the city's floating market, and got to experience the Jan Sofat neighbourhood; going for walks and on the recommendation of the villa's owner Anne-Marie Tap, we joined 3,000 other people for the annual New Year's Day swim.

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The Desert Botanical Garden has the largest collection of cacti in North America.



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Gateway to the great outdoors

Phoenix. Urban sophistication meets thrilling adventure

VAWN HIMMELSBACH
For Metro

Phoenix is one of the sunniest cities in the U.S. — but it's not just for snowbirds looking to escape the harsh Canadian winter.

As the gateway to the Grand Canyon, Phoenix is set against a backdrop of rugged mountains in one of the

lushest deserts in the world. But it also has a sophisticated urban scene, with boutique hotels and luxury spas, plenty of nightlife, and some of the best southwestern food around.

"It's a wonderful place for our northern friends to thaw out and leave their parkas behind," said Douglas MacKenzie, media relations

director with Visit Phoenix.

The city's dependable sunshine makes outdoor activities a way of life — whether rappelling into a wet canyon or enjoying a craft cocktail on a poolside patio.

In the fall and winter, the climate is ideal for hiking and biking (in the spring, blooming wildflowers carpet the desert).

Hike the Cholla Trail on Camelback Mountain or the numerous trails in the Phoenix Mountain Preserve. Or check out the views from a hot air balloon, on a Jeep tour or while riding a horse.

While there are plenty of culinary options, Phoenix is known for its authentic southwestern and Mexican fare. Kai is the only Five Diamond Native American restaurant in the world, while the locals head to Los Dos Molinos for no-fuss traditional Mexican.

Phoenix offers a range of hip boutique hotels and luxury resorts with spas and golf courses, but there's also the unique option of staying at a dude ranch for a true cowboy experience. Or step into luxury at the Arizona Biltmore (Frank Lloyd Wright

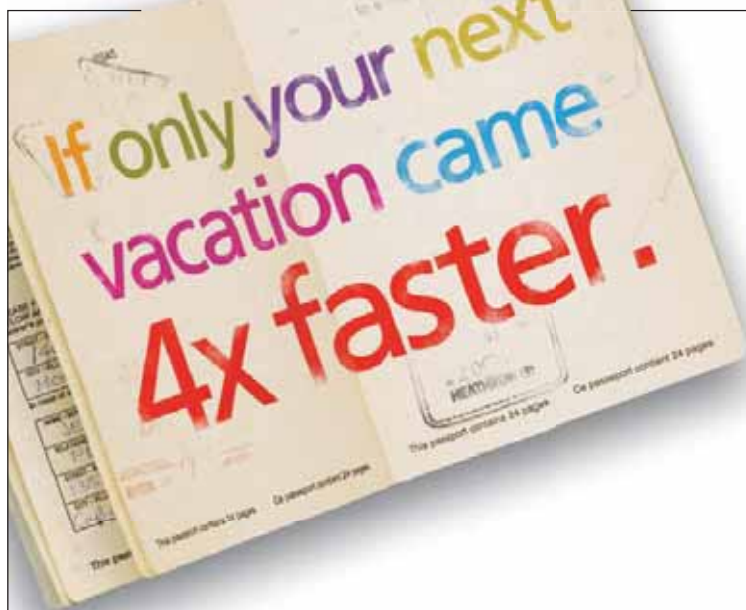
served as consulting architect).

"We have 62,000 hotel rooms in the Greater Phoenix Area and one to fit everyone's budget from economical to five-star luxury," said MacKenzie. Phoenix is also known for its spa scene, offering everything from mud wraps to hot golf ball massages.

There's also plenty worth seeing around town. "The Heard Museum has the largest collection of Native American artifacts (and) the Desert Botanical Garden has the largest collection of cacti in North America," said MacKenzie.

Unique adventures

- Phoenix has an emerging craft beer scene, with a dozen or so breweries and more than 60 wineries in the area. Imbibe on a craft brewery tour or a "water to wine" kayaking tour where you paddle between three different vineyards.
- Arizona offers some of the world's top canyoneering. Several operators offer adventures for different skill levels — from bouldering and rappelling to exploring wet canyons.



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Take chili beyond ground beef and beans

Mixed Veggie and Steak Chili. This refreshing take on the classic hearty dish doesn't take much time or effort to make



DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

Try making chili with steak next time you have a hankering during the week. It's just as easy as using ground beef but has a chunkier texture, which is a nice change.

You can use stir-fry strips if you don't want to slice the steak yourself, but slicing takes no time at all.

Use your favourite fresh

FLASH FOOD



From your fridge to your table in 30 minutes or less

peppers or mushrooms, but to make this in a snap, why not check what's available in your freezer and bulk up the pot with a variety of frozen veg?

Pick up a few bags when they are on sale and then you will be ready to whip up this dish or serve up a variety of veggies alongside your favourite weeknight meal.

Keeping a bag of frozen mixed vegetables in your freezer is also an easy way to pump up your soups with flavour and texture, not to mention extra servings of vegetables!



COOK TIME ABOUT 30 MINUTES

This recipe serves four. EMILY RICHARDS

Ingredients

- 1 tsp (5 ml) canola oil
- 1 sirloin grilling steak (about 12 oz/375 g), in 1/2 inch (1 cm) pieces
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) chili powder
- 1 tsp (5 ml) each dried oregano leaves and ground cumin
- 1 can (28 oz/796 ml) diced tomatoes
- 2 cups (500 ml) mixed frozen vegetables, such as broccoli, cauliflower and carrots
- 1 can (19 oz/540 ml) red kidney beans, drained and rinsed
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) tomato paste

This chili is perfect served up with a crunchy salad.

Directions

1. In large shallow saucepan
2. Add onion, garlic, chili

or Dutch oven, heat oil over medium-high heat and brown steak. Remove to plate.

powder, oregano and cumin and cook, stirring for about 5 minutes or until softened. Stir in tomatoes, frozen vegetables, beans and

tomato paste; bring to a boil. Stir in steak; reduce heat and simmer for about 20 minutes or until chili is thickened.

A filling chickpeas and beef combo

Isn't it great to be rewarded for spending minutes in the morning assembling dinner in your slow cooker? My fave is stew.

But how to make a batch of beef stew that satisfies without being too heavy? Enter today's star ingredient: the chickpea! This legume is my secret for adding lean pro-

tein and fibre to many dishes. It's hearty enough to hold its own with other proteins.

This stew is comfort at its finest — beef cubes sautéed golden brown with turmeric, then simmered in wine, beef stock, lemon zest and prunes in a relationship that can only be described as symbiotic.

1. In bowl, mix flour, turmeric and a hefty pinch each of salt and pepper. Add the beef cubes and toss to coat evenly.

2. In sauté pan over medium-high, heat the oil. Add the beef and brown on all sides, 2 to 3 minutes per side. Set aside.

3. Coat 6-quart slow cooker with cooking spray, arrange onion on bottom and beef over it. Add remaining ingredients, then cover and cook until meat is tender, 8 hours on low or 4 hours on high. Taste, season with salt, pepper. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ MELISSA D'ARABIAN, AN EXPERT ON HEALTHY EATING ON A BUDGET AND AUTHOR OF SUPERMARKET HEALTHY.**

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp ground turmeric
- Kosher salt and ground black pepper
- 1 lb lean stew beef (such as top round), cut into 1-inch cubes
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 medium yellow onion, roughly chopped
- 1/2 cup chopped pitted prunes
- 2 medium carrots, roughly chopped
- 1 medium zucchini, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- Zest and juice of 1 lemon
- 2 tsp grated fresh ginger
- 2 tsp minced fresh oregano (or 1 tsp dried)
- 1/3 cup red wine
- 1 cup beef stock
- 15-oz can chickpeas, drained and rinsed



This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Gather a combo of contacts for career success

Career. Tips on nabbing your ideal professional network

LAUREN
MARINIGH
TalentEgg.ca

Creating a LinkedIn profile is easy — knowing who to add and how to build your network and connections is the hard part.

Building an ideal network on LinkedIn takes time, persistence and patience. But once you have created a great network of contacts, you'll find LinkedIn is one of your most valuable social media platforms and a great resource.

So where do you start? Here are some tips.

Who to add

Knowing who to add is the most important thing to consider when building any network, but especially on a social platform like LinkedIn.

Keep in mind that LinkedIn is a professional hub, and your connections are a representation of you. Only connect with people you feel will represent you well and that you would be happy for possible employers to see as connections on your profile.

If you are going to reach out to professionals you don't personally know, make sure that you include a message with your invitation, so they understand why you are adding them, and how you may want to network.

Avoid adding people who have no significant value to you or your network. These people may be those that aren't in your field, friends you haven't kept in touch with, and of course, people



Oh, the places this tablet could take you! ISTOCK

that you don't know or trust.

Always make sure that you skim the profile of each possible new connection, as this is a way to validate who they are, and why they are relevant to you.

What employers are looking for

Employers often first look for mutual connections, and how you link back to them personally. It sparks a common ground when an employer notices you have a connection in common.

Peek at your new pal

"Always make sure that you skim the profile of each possible new connection, as this is a way to validate who they are, and why they are relevant to you."

This could also be negative if the connection in common isn't someone who has the best reputation with the employer or human resources manager looking up your profile. Employers also want to see that you have worked

to build your network. Profiles that only have minimal connections or no connections at all can raise a red flag. If you are going to be on LinkedIn, commit yourself to building your network, and keeping your profile up-

dated, otherwise it's almost better to stay off of it.

Not sure how to build your network or don't know very many people on LinkedIn? Start with creating a great profile, sharing regular content, and getting involved in LinkedIn groups and company pages.

You'll notice your network will slowly begin to grow. And hey, don't forget to add all your colleagues from past jobs, or classmates and teachers from college or university.

Who to remove

LinkedIn is a professional network in comparison to Facebook. Who you connect with on LinkedIn is probably not necessarily who you connect with on Facebook and vice versa. Keep LinkedIn your professional network, and don't be afraid to remove those connections you may not want to be associated with anymore.

- Remove those that you haven't stayed in touch with enough to know what they are doing professionally. Remove those who are inactive and haven't updated their profiles in a long time, and people that may have switched career paths and no longer seem to be relevant to your network or career. The important thing to remember is that you can't worry about people being offended if you removed them. LinkedIn is a virtual resumé, and if your connections aren't adding value to your profile, there really is no point being connected.

- Once you have a good LinkedIn network, you'll start reaping the rewards of networking within your industry. LinkedIn is a great resource for anyone, but especially for new grads with minimal experience and limited industry connections. LinkedIn can be your go-to site for finding jobs and building your professional reputation and network.



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Give your portfolio a noticeable pick-me-up



You will often need references from your manager when looking for a new job. You can use a portfolio to help guide your manager to highlight what is important to the new job, not just what they can remember you worked on. ISTOCK

Career. This is your professional identity in one package, so be sure to make it pop for potential employers

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Many professionals make the mistake of thinking that they don't need a portfolio because they don't have anything to put in one. Here's how to put together a professional portfolio that will help you showcase your work, highlight your skill set, and can serve as a valuable career planning tool as you go about your job hunt.

What is it? What should you include in it?

This is not a resumé; it's a collection of your professional achievements.

Unlike a resumé, there's no page limit, so it should include all the projects you've worked on, recommendations, reference letters, awards, side projects, publications, a listing of conferences and events you have attended or spoken at, courses and workshops, and anything else you feel is relevant to your professional life.

Why do it?

To jog your memory and your manager's:

Simply put, most people are terrible at remembering things. Unless you write down and reflect on relevant and important experiences, it's easy to forget about them.

If you forget about your

Putting it together

How you actually collect everything and organize it is up to you.

- Maybe it's a formal hard-copy document that you use publicly and share with others. Maybe it's just an informal folder on your computer where you keep relevant documents for your eyes only.
- However you choose to do it, the thing that matters is that you are keeping track of all the amazing work you are doing, and keeping it up to date and relevant.
- Set a recurring calendar date with yourself each month and commit to revisiting your portfolio to reflect on your experiences so far, update it with new information, and plan for the month ahead.

own achievements, what are the chances a potential employer will remember? It's important to document and showcase what you have accomplished so that you can communicate more effectively with your manager about how you have contributed to the team, and demonstrate ways you have gone above and beyond.

To help you land your next job:

As you advance your career, this tool should also make it easier for you to quickly gather and comment on relevant work experience.

For example, if you're in PR and applying for a marketing job, you should be able to look to your portfolio and very easily gather all the marketing-related

projects you have worked on and identify the overlapping skill sets because you have carefully organized and tracked them over the years.

Career planning and development:

As you go through the exercise of putting together your portfolio, and continue to add to it over time, patterns will start to emerge.

Maybe you notice that all of your projects have been internal and you need some more client-facing experience to enhance your applications.

Or that you've been to five social media workshops this year, and you still haven't put up your hand to run the next Twitter campaign.

It should help you identify where you are over- or under-indexed in certain areas, highlight gaps in your skill set, and draw your attention to opportunities for personal development as you proceed in your professional life.

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Sabres retire The Dominator's No. 39

Dominik Hasek stands next to a plaque with his number in the entrance to the Sabres' locker-room on Tuesday in Buffalo. The Sabres paid tribute to their former star goalie by retiring his No. 39 in a banner-raising ceremony before their home game against the Detroit Red Wings. The player nicknamed "The Dominator," who also played for the Red Wings, Ottawa Senators and Chicago Blackhawks, was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in November. HARRY SCULL JR./THE BUFFALO NEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Road to conference finals a bumpy one

NFL playoffs. Patriots, Seahawks, Packers and Colts have all overcome snags early in season

There are the 2007 Patriots, a juggernaut, and the 2014 not-so-dominant version.

There are the current Seahawks, not quite as fearsome as last year's championship edition.

Throw in a Packers team that doesn't much resemble the Lombardi squads, and a group of Colts who have experienced more ups and downs this season than the rest of this final four.

Yes, it's been a long and winding road to the conference title games for New England, Seattle, Green Bay and Indianapolis.

The Seahawks were 3-3 and fighting off the championship hangover in October. They've won 10 of 11 since, and their defence became immovable once all-pro inside linebacker Bobby Wagner returned from a

Quoted



"We don't want to be the best team Week 1 and then basically shut it down for the remainder of the season. We want to grow and get better week in and week out, and in doing so you're going to take some tough losses, and you have to learn from them and bounce back."

Colts defensive end Cory Redding on peaking during the playoffs

right foot injury.

"When I went into this year with the thought that this is a very unique chance at showing that you can handle all of that — it's been difficult for people and the history of it shows you that it's hard to come back and get yourself back into this kind of position again," Seahawks coach Pete Carroll said. "So this is exactly where we'd hoped we would be right now."

Just as much in the dol-drumbs back in early autumn as the Seahawks: Tom Brady and the Patriots. They were 2-2, coming off an ugly loss at Kansas City in prime time.

The three-time Super Bowl

winner had little cohesion with a mediocre group of wideouts other than Julian Edelman. Star tight end Rob Gronkowski was slowly coming back from injuries that basically wiped out his previous season. Questions abounded concerning the running game, the offensive line, and a defence that had been torched in two of the first four games.

In the next 12 weeks, the Patriots won 10 times. Between Oct. 5 and Nov. 23, they never scored fewer

than 27 points and averaged more than 39 points in a seven-game winning streak.

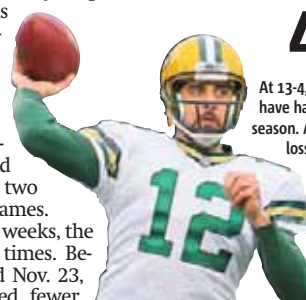
Think New England straightened things out?

"It's hard to be oblivious to things," Brady said of commentaries that the Patriots were no longer elite. "We all have TVs or the Internet, or the questions I get and the emails that I get from people that are concerned. Nobody died or anything. It's just a loss and I think we've always done a great job putting losses behind us quickly." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Road woes

4

At 13-4, the Packers have had a successful season. All four of their losses, however, have come on the road, where they are 4-4. They play in Seattle on Sunday.



Aaron Hernandez

Judge in murder trial denies CNN's juror request

The judge overseeing the murder trial of former New England Patriots player Aaron Hernandez has turned down a request from CNN that the questioning of prospective jurors be done in a way that the public can hear.

Bristol County Superior Court Judge Susan Garsh responded Monday to a letter sent by CNN last week. The letter expressed concerns that the plan to question prospective jurors out of the public's hearing violates the First Amendment.

Garsh says Massachusetts' Supreme Judicial Court found it was constitutional to question them out of the public's hearing, as long as the public could see the proceeding.

The first phase of jury selection is due to end Tuesday. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Broncos

Elway pushes for Manning return

If John Elway gets to choose, his quarterback next season will be Peyton Manning.

During a news conference Tuesday, Elway said he did not press Manning for a decision on his future when they met the day after Denver's 24-13 loss to Indianapolis in the AFC divisional playoffs.

The Broncos executive vice-president said he expects to reconvene with Manning in about a month to see where he stands.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Royals extend Yost's contract

The Kansas City Royals and Ned Yost have agreed on a one-year contract extension that will keep the manager with the franchise through the 2016 season.

Yost said after leading the Royals to an American League pennant last season that he hoped to manage a few more years. His contract had been set to expire after the 2015 season.

Yost will soon become the club's winningest manager. He has 373 victories, trailing only Dick Howser (404) and Whitey Herzog (410). **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Pistons guard Brandon Jennings celebrates after causing the game sealing turnover in a 114-111 win over the Raptors on Monday night in Toronto.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pistons pumping up Motown crowd

NBA. Fans along for the ride as Detroit rolls to an unexpected nine wins in 10 games

Detroit had just lost to Atlanta when a last-second three-pointer missed the mark, but Pistons coach Stan Van Gundy noticed something unusual about the home crowd's reaction.

"There were people standing up and cheering guys and the whole thing," Van Gundy

said. "They want to see you go out and give a great, great effort every night, and I think watching us and watching us on TV, I think that's what people are seeing — the energy and the effort and the spirit of this group."

The loss to the Hawks was Detroit's only defeat in its last 10 games, and although the Pistons remain well under .500, they're finally beginning to win back their fans, whose indifference had become one of the defining characteristics of this dreary period in the team's history.

As they near the halfway point of Van Gundy's first season at the helm, the Pistons may finally be shedding their reputation as frustrating underachievers.

Lately, they've looked more like the type of hungry underdog Motown loves to embrace.

"It's just fun that it's a buzz around the Pistons," forward Jonas Jerebko said. "Usually it's only been when LeBron's been in town or the Lakers come in and stuff like that."

The Pistons lost 13 in a row at one point and were 5-23 when they made the bold de-

cision to waive pricey forward Josh Smith, who was filling up the stat sheet but shooting poorly — and who was such a focal point of the offence that it seemed hard for other players to flourish.

After cutting Smith, Detroit won seven games in a row, and the Pistons have won two straight since the loss to Atlanta. Detroit was two games out of the Eastern Conference's final playoff spot entering Tuesday, when the Pistons had a night off before a home game against New Orleans. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

NBA. Garnett suspended, Howard fined after dust up

Kevin Garnett was suspended one game without pay Tuesday by the NBA for head-butting Dwight Howard, who received only a fine when the league ruled he didn't retaliate with a punch.

Howard was fined \$15,000, the league announced in saying he pushed Garnett in the neck.

NBA President of Basketball Operations Rod Thorn determined that Garnett initiated the altercation in the Rockets' 113-99 victory over



Dwight Howard, left, and Kevin Garnett Monday. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Brooklyn on Monday night. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

NBA. Nets owner open to offers, no sale imminent

A spokesperson for Mikhail Prokhorov says the Nets owner is open to offers for the team but that no sale is imminent.

Bloomberg News, citing two people with direct knowledge of the matter, reported Tuesday that Prokhorov had retained Evercore Partners to sell the team.

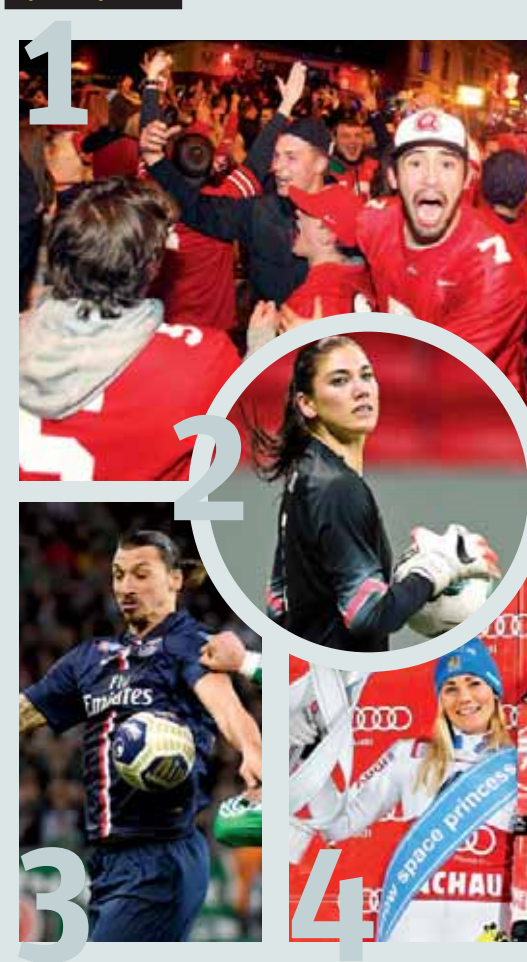
Prokhorov, a Russian billionaire who bought 80 per cent of the team in 2010, said earlier this season he was willing to listen to offers for a minority share of the club



Nets owner Mikhail Prokhorov. **GETTY IMAGES FILE**

but wouldn't sell his majority stake. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Sports in pictures



1 College football. Buckeyes win, Ohio Stadium goal post loses

Ohio State football fans took to the streets after their team's championship victory early Tuesday, yelling and screaming in delight, setting nearly 90 fires and tearing down an Ohio Stadium goal post. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

2 Women's soccer. Judge dismisses U.S. star's domestic violence case

A judge near Seattle has dismissed misdemeanor assault charges against soccer superstar Hope Solo.

Solo, a goalie for the U.S. women's national soccer team and the Seattle Reign professional club, had been charged with two counts of fourth-degree domestic violence assault stemming from a June altercation with her half-sister and 17-year-old nephew. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

3 French League Cup. Zlatan all heart en route to semifinals

Zlatan Ibrahimovic chested home the winning goal as Paris Saint-Germain scraped a 1-0 win at Saint-Etienne on Tuesday to reach the League Cup semifinals.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 World Cup slalom. Hansdotter dominates for 2nd career win

Frida Hansdotter of Sweden dominated a World Cup night slalom on Tuesday in Flachau, Austria, strengthening her position at the top of the discipline standings going into the world championships next month. Loudly cheered by 14,800 spectators, Hansdotter built on her first-run lead to finish in a combined time of 1 minute, 49.59 seconds. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

2015 Chrysler 200

- **Type.** Four-door, five-passenger midsize sedan
- **Engines.** 2.4-litre four-cylinder (184 hp), 3.6-litre V6 (295)
- **Transmission.** Nine-speed automatic
- **Price.** \$22,495 (2.4L), \$26,995 (V6) base; \$38,995 as tested

Market position

Chrysler's purchase by Fiat has given it access to new engineering, including the Alfa Romeo chassis under the 200. The company is now catching up in the small and midsize markets thanks to these Italian partners.

Points

- The all-wheel system disconnects the rear axle when not required, to improve fuel economy, but sends power to the back wheels whenever needed for extra traction.
- The transmission is shifted by a dial, which frees up console space.
- An optional self-parking feature works on parallel or perpendicular parking spots (and does a very good job).



The AWD system disconnects the rear axle when not needed.

Interesting features

Eight airbags and active front head restraints are standard issue. Also available are blind-spot monitoring, cross-traffic alert, a self-parking feature, ventilated seats and navigation.

Getting back into the game

PHOTOS: JIL MCINTOSH



Compare



1 Toyota Camry V6
Base price: \$33,650
Also redesigned for 2015, the Camry features more aggressive styling and improved driving dynamics.



2 Kia Optima SX Turbo
Base price: \$34,895
Optima's optional turbo-charged engine makes 274 hp and boosts driving fun.



3 Nissan Altima 3.5
Base price: \$33,498
Long drives remain comfortable thanks to the zero gravity design of the seats, which reduces fatigue.

Review. Alfa Romeo chassis helps redesigned Chrysler 200 compete in the tough midsize family sedan category

JIL
MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

Midsize sedans are an important segment, and if you're going to make it here, you've got to bring ammunition.

This has usually been a weak point for Chrysler, but it's finally in the game with the 200 sedan, which has been completely redesigned for 2015. It still has some flaws, but it's finally strong

enough to tackle the competitors.

The base engine is a 2.4-litre four-cylinder making 184 horsepower, which is available in all four trim levels (LX, Limited, 200S, and 200C). My tester was optioned with the 3.6-litre V6 that can be added to the S and C trims. Mine also had all-wheel drive, which can be ordered only with the V6.

Both engines use a nine-speed automatic transmission. The ninth gear is a bit of overkill, as I was only ever able to get into it on a flat stretch of highway. Even then, I had to use the steering-wheel paddle shifter to manually engage it, and on the slightest incline, the transmission slipped back



The new interior is lovely, with soft-touch materials and excellent fit and finish.

into eighth gear.

The engine is smooth, but its published fuel consumption is higher than many of its V6-powered rivals, and in combined driving, I averaged 10.4 L/100 km.

The redesigned interior is lovely, with soft-touch materials, excellent fit and finish, and comfortable seats that are clad in soft leather on the top-line 200C.

A heated steering wheel

is standard on that trim, but there's some form over function, here. The wheel is enhanced with a handsome chrome ring, which stays ice cold on winter mornings while the rest of the wheel heats up — defeating the entire purpose.

Small-item storage looks limited at first, but you find a ton of space once you start looking. In addition to a console box and an open bin under the shifter, the entire top of the console slides back, revealing a huge hidden cubby.

The 200 can feel a bit pricey at its upper end, but the mid-range models seem right in line. If you're in the market for midsize sedan, there's a new player in town.

5 DRIVE

THE FIRST BIG DEAL EVENT

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Starting From Price for 2015 Ram 1500 Laramie Limited Quad Cab shown: \$50,485†

2015 RAM 1500 QUAD CAB SXT 4X4

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- Electronic Stability Control with Hill Start Assist, Trailer Sway Control and Traction Control
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TOWS UP TO 10,650 LB**



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UP TO 420 LB-FT OF CLASS-LEADING LOW-END TORQUE*



INNOVATION

CLASS-EXCLUSIVE MULTI LINK COIL SPRING REAR SUSPENSION*

Wise customers read the fine print: †, ‡, *, **, ††, †††, ††††. \$ The First Big Deal Sales Event offers are limited time offers which apply to retail deliveries of selected new and unused models purchased from participating retailers on or after January 3, 2015. Offers subject to change and may be extended without notice. All pricing includes freight (\$1,695), air-conditioning charge (if applicable), tire levy and OMVIC fee. Pricing excludes licence, insurance, registration, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable fees and taxes. Financing and lease offers available to qualified customers on approved credit. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may sell for less. (\$8,500 in Total Discounts is available on new 2015 Ram 1500 models (excluding Reg Cab) and consists of \$7,000 in Consumer Cash Discounts and \$1,500 in Ram Truck Loyalty/Conquest Bonus Cash. See your retailer for complete details. ‡3.99% purchase financing for up to 96 months available on select new 2015 models through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Examples: 2015 Ram 1500 Quad Cab 4x4 SXT (25A+AGR)/2015 Ram 1500 Crew Cab 4x4 SXT (25A+AGR+XPF) with a Purchase Price of \$28,447/\$31,914 with a \$0 down payment, financed at 3.99% for 96 months equals 208 bi-weekly payments of \$160/\$179 with a cost of borrowing of \$4,928/\$5,417 and a total obligation of \$33,275.14/\$37,330.57. *\$1,500 Ram Truck Loyalty/Conquest/Skilled Trades Bonus Cash is available on the retail purchase/lease of 2014/2015 Ram 1500 (excludes Regular Cab). 2014 Ram ProMaster or 2014 Ram Cargo Van and is deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. Eligible customers include: 1. Current owners/lessees of a Dodge or Ram Pickup Truck or Large Van or any other manufacturer's Pickup Truck or Large Van. The vehicle must have been owned/leased by the eligible customer and registered in their name on or before January 1, 2015. Proof of ownership/lease agreement will be required. 2. Customers who are skilled tradesmen or are acquiring a skilled trade. This includes Licensed Tradesmen, Certified Journeymen or customers who have completed an Apprenticeship Certification. A copy of the Trade Licence/Certification required. 3. Customers who are Baesmler Approved service providers. Proof of membership is required. Limit one \$1,500 bonus cash offer per eligible truck transaction. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. **Non-prime financing available on approved credit. APR example: 2015 Ram 1500 Quad 4x4 SXT with a Purchase Price of \$28,447 financed at 6.99% over 84 months, equals 182 bi-weekly payments of \$198 for a total finance obligation of \$36,053. †Starting From Prices for vehicles shown include Consumer Cash Discounts and do not include upgrades (e.g., paint). Upgrades available for additional cost. ††Fuel Economy claim based on Automotive News Full-Size Pickup segmentation and 2015 EnerGuide highway fuel consumption ratings. Government of Canada new 5-cycle test method used. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on driving habits and other factors. †††Based on Automotive News Full-Size Pickup segmentation. ††††Longevity based on entire Ram Pickup lineup compared to competitive pickups. Based on IHS Automotive: Polk Canadian Vehicles in Operation data as of July 1, 2014, for model-years 1988-2014 for all large pickups sold and available in Canada over the last 27 years. **When properly equipped. ††Based on Automotive News Full-Size Pickup segmentation. 420 lb-ft of torque achieved at 2,000 rpm. †††Based on Automotive News Full-Size Pickup segmentation. 2014 EnerGuide highway fuel consumption ratings. Government of Canada test methods used. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on driving habits and other factors. 11.5 L/100 km (25 MPG) city and 8.4 L/100 km (34 MPG) highway on Ram 1500 4x2 model with 3.0L EcoDiesel V6 and 8-speed automatic. ††††The SiriusXM logo is a registered trademark of SiriusXM Satellite Radio Inc.



AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across?
Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.



See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

Aries

March 21 - April 20

Be less predictable, especially when dealing with people in positions of power. Too many people are taking you for granted — and will continue to do until you do something.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

There are a lot of people out there who could benefit from your brand of kindness, so start looking for ways you can assist.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

With your ruler Mercury strong today you are in a can-do mood but you may have to deal with people who seem incapable of making decisions. Stay calm.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

Today's positive cosmic influences suggest you can ask for almost anything you want and partners and loved ones will hand it over with no questions asked.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

You are advised not to take money issues too seriously today, not because they don't matter but because you may well be looking at them from completely the wrong angle.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

A little of what you fancy today will do you the world of good. Don't listen to those who say it is wrong to enjoy yourself when so many others are finding it tough. Show the world how easy it is to have fun.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Everything seems to be going so well that you may get a bit suspicious and start wondering if it's all too good to be true. On the contrary, loved ones will do anything for you. Enjoy it.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Nothing is beyond you. That may sound too good to be true but you really can accomplish something remarkable over the next two or three days, simply by following your dream.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

You will have to deal with someone today who is so slow that it drives you mad. Not everyone thinks or acts as quickly as you and sometimes you just have to wait for the slowest one in the group.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

It is not your job to please someone else — it is their job to please you. Partners and loved ones know exactly what it is you desire — all you have to do is let them give it to you.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

By all means have fun today but don't go too far and put your wellbeing at risk. Always leave a little something in reserve.

Pisces

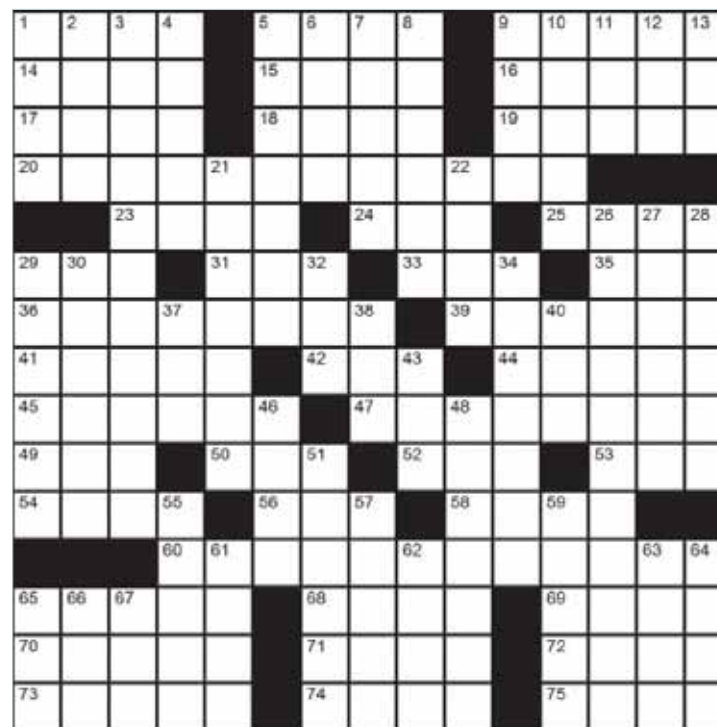
Feb. 20 - March 20

You will receive good news today but for some reason you may find it hard to believe. The planets indicate that no one is trying to deceive you.

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan

Across

1. Aware of the hoax: 2 wds.
5. ___ good cause (Reason to donate)
9. Canadian soul songstress Ms. Watson
14. Do this :(
15. "Can ___ a Witness" by Marvin Gaye
16. Bustling
17. Sacred looped cross
18. ___-drop
19. 'R' of US state RI
20. Quebec City's sculpted Wintertime retreat from January 3rd to March 22nd, 2015: 3 mots
23. ___-B toothbrush
24. 'N' of RCN [abbr.]
25. Mover's plank
29. Pronounce
31. Young sheep
33. "Uh-huh."
35. Pierre's 'here'
36. Swaps an old car towards the purchase of a new one: 2 wds.
39. Yalta's locale
41. One saying "Eww, gross.", say
42. Sever
44. Dispirit
45. 1989 Janet Jackson album: 'Rhythm ___ 1814'
47. Post to a new post
49. Wildebeest
50. ___ worth (\$\$\$)



52. Response, for short
53. Beverage menu item
54. Shaggy animals of Tibet
56. "___ Wiedersehen!"
58. CD part, variably
60. Map maker
65. Alexander __,

- Winnipeg-born hockey star
68. Triad
69. "Waking Up in ___" (2002)
70. "Why ___ you ready yet?" (Hurry up!)
71. Certain citrus
72. Antiquities
73. Funeral rite

- sights
74. Narrated
75. Additional
- Down**
1. Moonfish
2. Something naughty
3. Northwest Territories community called 'Tuk' for short
4. Questionnaire

- choice
5. Instruments featured in East Coast music
6. Fiend
7. Rule as a Royal
8. Not working but having fun instead: 2 wds.
9. Fashion designer Mr. Jacobs

10. Fireplace leftovers
11. 1990s trial Judge
12. "The Karate ___" (1984)
13. Rock's valuable band
21. Afterwards: 2 wds.
22. With, in Montreal
26. Canadian rocker born in Sarnia, ON: 2 wds.
27. "___: Dawn of the Dinosaurs" (2009)
28. Ms. Agron of "Glee"
29. Cheap
30. Secrets to some
32. Canadian actor Mr. Bellows
34. Realm of Wilhelm I
37. Agnus ___ (Mass prayer)
38. Hide Hair connector
40. Entries
43. Little legume
46. Just about
48. Mobile device operating system
51. Doubled disapproval
55. Plays: Act's one-of-some
57. Relinquish, variably
59. Unrestrained shopping
61. Sidewalk bugs
62. Fish's 'lung'
63. Finales
64. Pink
65. Maple's drink
66. Blue Rodeo hit
67. 'Mountain' suffix

Yesterday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers



Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku



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model shown* (KROM Edition)

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AWD**
ON OTHER ROGUE MODELS



SL AWD Premium model shown▲

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Lease payments of \$39/\$65 on the 2014 Sentra/2015 Rogue must be made on a monthly basis and cannot be made weekly. Weekly lease payments are for advertising purposes only. *Offer applies to Nissan Canada Finance (NCF) and finance contracts on new 2015 Micra (SV & SR trims only), 2015 Versa Note, 2015 Altima Sedan, 2014 Sentra models when reported as sold between Jan. 3 – Feb. 2, 2015. This program is applicable to NCF special or standard finance rates. This is a limited time offer. Not combinable with fleet discounts. First time buyers are not eligible for the program. Customers leasing or financing through NCF can choose one of the following options: Three (3) Payment Waivers or one (1) payment of \$500 NCF Cash alternative on 2015 Micra (SV & SR trims), 2015 Versa Note, 2014 Sentra; \$750 NCF Cash alternative on 2015 Altima Sedan. After six (6) bi-weekly finance/semi-monthly lease payments, consumer will be required to make all remaining regularly scheduled payments over the remaining term of the contract. Payment Waiver: First three (3) monthly lease or finance payments (including all taxes) will be waived, up to a maximum of \$350 (inclusive of taxes) per month on 2015 Micra (SV & SR trims only), 2015 Versa Note and 2014 Sentra; \$450 (inclusive of taxes) per month on 2015 Altima Sedan. Consumer is responsible for any and all amounts in excess of \$350 (2015 Micra (SV & SR trims only), 2015 Versa Note and 2014 Sentra)/\$450 (2015 Altima Sedan) per month (inclusive of taxes). The 3 Payment Waivers cannot be combined with the Nissan Finance Cash alternative; only one option can be selected. This program is applicable to Nissan Finance contracts only. This program is a limited time offer. Not combinable with fleet discounts. The Three (3) monthly payment waivers or the Nissan Finance Cash alternative options are both not eligible for program protection. Units must come from dealer stock and reported as sold before or on Feb. 2, 2015. **No charge All-Wheel Drive (AWD) has an equivalent value of up to \$2,000 applicable on all 2015 Rogue models (except Rogue S FWD (Y6G51A AA00)/Rogue SV FWD (Y6G51A A000). Offer only applicable on cash purchase or finance. Discount is deducted after taxes. ***MSRP starting from \$9,998 for a 2015 Nissan Micra 1.6 S, MT (\$5LGS5V AA00) excluding Freight and Dealer Fees. ****Representative example based on a 2015 Nissan Micra 1.6 S, MT (\$5LGS5V AA00) with MSRP of \$12,998. Actual price may vary by region. Example of monthly payment of \$172.82. This offer cannot be combined with any other offer. Conditions apply. Representative monthly lease offer based on any new 2014 Sentra 1.8 S M6 (C4LG54 AA00)/2015 Rogue S FWD CVT (Y6G51S AA00). 0%/1.99% lease APR for a 60/60 month term equals 60/60 monthly payments of \$170/\$280 with \$0 down payment, and \$0 security deposit. First semi-monthly payment, down payment and \$0 security deposit are due at lease inception. Prices and payments include freight and fees. Lease based on a maximum of 20,000 km/year with excess charged at \$0.10/km. Total lease obligation is \$10,211/\$16,785. This offer is only valid from Jan. 3, 2014 – Feb. 2, 2015. \$600 NCF lease cash included on advertised offers, only applicable on 2014 Sentra 1.8 S M6 (C4LG54 AA00). Conditions apply. *Models shown \$16,331/\$25,899/\$35,982 Selling Price for a new 2015 Micra** KROM MT (**SRG5S KRO0/2014 Sentra 1.8 SL (C4TG14 AA00)/2015 Rogue SL AWD CVT (Y6DG1S BK00). ****Freight and PDE charges (\$1,400/\$1,567/\$1,750), air-conditioning fee (\$100) where applicable, applicable fees (all which may vary by region), manufacturer's rebate and dealer participation where applicable are included. License, registration, insurance and applicable taxes are extra. Lease and finance offers are available on approved credit through Nissan Canada Finance for a limited time, may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers except stackable trading dollars. Retailers are free to set individual prices. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Vehicles and accessories are for illustration purposes only. Offers, prices and features subject to change without notice. Offers valid between Jan 3 – Feb. 2, 2015. Excludes vehicles with third-party sources, including AutoData and manufacturer websites. July 30, 2014. Based on GAC (AIAMC) Compact segmentation. All information compiled from NR Can Fuel Economy data and third-party sources, including manufacturer websites. Gasoline engines only, excludes hybrids, diesels and electric vehicles. July 30, 2014. Offers subject to change, continuation or cancellation without notice. Offers have no cash alternative value. See your participating Nissan retailer for complete details. 1998-2014 Nissan Canada Inc. and Nissan Financial Services Inc., a division of Nissan Canada Inc.